

States and Republic of Vietnam together sacrificed so much and fought so bravely. This year is the 2nd Anniversary of the Vietnam War Memorial in Denver, and it truly represents an important and meaningful addition to our community.

I am proud to recognize the efforts put forth by these men and women in the defense of democracy in our two countries. The United States of America is stronger and more enriched because of their contributions and for this, I thank them.

I would also like to thank True Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese American Community of Colorado and Thinh Nguyen, the Chair of the Vietnamese Armed Forces Day Organizing Committee for helping to make this ceremony and special day possible.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH 2017

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juneteenth. On June 19 (Juneteenth), 1865, Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston Island and issued General Order Number 3 which read, "the people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free." With this action the last American slaves, nearly 250,000 Texans, were freed two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Early Juneteenth celebrations were political rallies to teach freed African Americans about their freedoms, including voting rights. Over the years Juneteenth is celebrated at a wide variety of public events, prayer services, ceremonies, family gatherings, parades, barbecues, rodeos, and sporting events. Modern Juneteenth celebrations encourage self-development and respect for all cultures.

Today, Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery. In 1979 Governor William "Bill" Clements, Jr. signed legislation declaring Juneteenth as a state holiday. By 2016 forty-five of the fifty states in the Union have followed suit recognizing Juneteenth as either a state holiday, ceremonial day, or day of observance.

Mr. Speaker I rise, with my fellow Texans, to celebrate Juneteenth in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. LAWRENCE REEDUS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and with great respect that I congratulate Mr. Lawrence Reedus on a momentous milestone, his 80th birthday. Lawrence will be celebrating with family and friends on Friday, June 16, 2017, at the Calumet Township Multi-Purpose Center in Gary, Indiana.

Lawrence Wesley Reedus was born on June 5, 1937, in Gary, Indiana, the second

oldest of five children. As a young man, he attended Roosevelt High School, where he excelled in his athletic pursuits, lettering in both football and basketball. After graduating in 1956, Lawrence continued his educational pursuits in Indiana at Manchester College. After working various jobs, Mr. Reedus found his calling as a career fireman for the Gary Fire Department, serving the city and its residents for more than twenty years. Known for his leadership and his political interest, Lawrence was determined to obtain a union for his fellow firefighters, so it is no surprise that he would go on to become the first African American president for the Gary Firefighters Association IAFF Local 359. For his unwavering dedication to his colleagues and to the community of Gary, Lawrence Reedus is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Reedus's greatest source of pride is his amazing family. He has three beloved children and three adoring grandchildren. Lawrence now resides in Memphis, Tennessee, but we are honored by his loyal service to the people of Gary for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Lawrence Reedus on this special day. His outstanding dedication to his community and fellow firefighters is truly admirable. It is my pleasure to join Lawrence's family and friends in wishing him a very happy 80th birthday.

HONORING MRS. DOLIA GONZALEZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Dolia Gonzalez, who at the age of 88, received her high school diploma.

Mrs. Gonzalez is the embodiment of hard work and selflessness. After completing the 7th grade, Dolia left school to help her mother raise her five siblings. She then became a full-time mother to her own son, Alfredo Gonzalez, who sacrificed his life for our country in the Vietnam War.

After losing Freddy in the Vietnam War, Mrs. Gonzalez continued to work at the Echo Hotel in Edinburg. Unfortunately, she eventually lost the compensation previously promised to her by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Then after being forced to leave her job at the Echo due to health concerns, she began working at her local H.E.B. in Edinburg, Texas, where she is currently employed.

On Saturday, June 3, Mrs. Gonzalez received an honorary high school diploma from McAllen High School in McAllen, Texas. Alongside Dolia were her niece, Emily Acosta, and the rest of the McAllen High School Class of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer my congratulations to Mrs. Gonzalez and her family. Her perseverance, fortitude, and dedication to her family and to our country have not gone unnoticed. She has made the South Texas community a better place, and it is my honor to acknowledge her today.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE SILICON VALLEY LEADERSHIP GROUP ON ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) as it celebrates its fortieth anniversary. Founded by David Packard in 1978, SVLG advocates on behalf of Silicon Valley businesses in the interest of expanding the economy and maintaining a high quality of life in Silicon Valley. Under the superb leadership of CEO Carl Guardino, the approximately 400 member companies constitute one in every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

The Leadership Group has built mightily upon David Packard's legacy by playing a key role in many critical undertakings, including: the establishment of a permanent U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Silicon Valley; establishing the Housing Trust Fund to create affordable housing; creating new employment opportunities for women; and advocating for comprehensive immigration reform. SVLG has been the unquestioned leader in the development of transportation improvements, including securing funding for the electrification of Caltrain to replace diesel trains with high-performance electric-powered trains; several successful efforts to expand BART to San Jose; and the enhancement of expressways, local roads, transit and highways to provide safer and more efficient commutes for Silicon Valley employees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in expressing our collective gratitude to the premier organization of Silicon Valley for its extraordinary contributions to the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley. We offer our congratulations on the occasion of its four decades of accomplishments which have made our region the economic engine of our nation's economy and have strengthened our country in countless ways.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT GEORGE G. MEADE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fort George G. Meade. For a century, Fort Meade has been an integral part of both our national security system as well as the Maryland community.

First constructed to house troops shipping off to fight in World War I, Camp Meade—as it was then known—was named for Civil War hero Major General George Gordon Meade, whose victory at the Battle of Gettysburg halted the Confederacy's invasion of the Union and turned the tide of the war. Over the course of World War I, more than 400,000 service members left from Camp Meade to fight in the war.

During the interwar period, Fort Meade housed the Army Tank School as well as the